

The Times' Daily Short Story.

A STROKE OF GENIUS

(Original.)

My aunt, with whom I went to live upon the death of my father, had been very unfortunate in her marriage. This had made her bitter against matrimony, and she became possessed with the idea of preventing my ever taking a husband. Before I had lived with her six months a written agreement had been made between us that I was to inherit all her property on condition of always remaining unmarried. Otherwise it would go to her brothers and sisters.

Then I met Oscar Merriam. I thought little of my agreement. Oscar was just the fellow to win a girl's heart. A cheerful, reckless disposition, a delicious smile, a hopeful, impractical nature—these were his traits, and they were just the traits to make me love him beyond measure.

My love affair nearly drove me wild. My infatuation for Oscar did not render me blind to the fact that he was visionary and impractical. On the one hand was every comfort without him; on the other every privation with him. His influence over me was sufficient to induce me to consent to a secret marriage. I was not dishonest enough to accept my aunt's fortune, falling to fulfill my part of the contract; indeed, by marriage I gave up my rights. I hoped for some occurrence to change the conditions, but the conditions grew more and more stringent. My aunt, who had received a nervous shock at the time of her husband's death, fell into a monomania on the subject of opposition to marriage and never ceased to remind me of my agreement. At last she became so demoralized that her physicians sent her to a sanitarium.

After a few months' medical treatment her mental condition was much improved, but she died suddenly of pneumonia.

I was in great perplexity, for my agreement with her still stood, and I had broken it. When the will was opened, what was my surprise to learn that my aunt had left me her fortune on condition that I marry within eighteen months after her death! When she had recovered a better mental condition she was horrified to think of my being unprotected and that she had fostered what she now dreaded. I consulted lawyers, who agreed that the terms of the will required me to be married within a specified time after my aunt's death. A marriage before or after this period would not fulfill the conditions. I wrote Oscar, who was at the time in Washington endeavoring to secure a patent.

I heard nothing from him for several days. Then he wrote me, frankly confessing that he only married me as an heiress and had no use for me poor.

For several days after this shock I was frantic. Then I was buoyed up

by anger. Upon consultation with my lawyer he advised me to begin divorce proceedings at once, and if it could be secured within the period designated in the will I might marry again before the time stipulated in the will should expire and secure the property. I was still so infatuated with my husband, loved him so dearly, that I hesitated. Then my anger prevailed. I would be rich, and he should see me living in luxury while he was buried in poverty and his patent rights. Proceedings were commenced at once, and I was not surprised when Oscar failed to make any answer to my charge, which was desertion. My attorney worked hard to expedite matters, but despite his energy the law's delay did not admit of my securing my decree with permission to marry till a few days before the expiration of the limit of time.

The great burden that rested upon me was the matter of a husband. In the first place, I was still in my heart foolish enough to love the man who had so basely deserted me. The adage, "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned," did not apply to me. Marriage with another was so repulsive to me that I seriously considered, after all, giving up the fortune and living without the matrimonial yoke. But no one—especially a woman—likes to give up a fortune and live alone at the same time. When my lawyer reminded me that before noon on the following day I must be wedded or my rights would be forfeited I had no preference whatever for any man. In despair I told my attorney to suggest some one. He promised to produce a friend who, he said, had known me and been my lover for a long while. I did not care for any except one man's love, but I considered this an advantage and consented to the introduction.

Though the time was short my attorney did not hurry, and it was 9 o'clock on the evening before the expiration of the time limit when the doorbell rang and I knew I was to inspect the candidate. So disagreeable was the matter to me that when the two men came into the drawing room I could not refrain from turning my back. There was a quick step behind me, and a pair of arms clasped me. I turned, indignant, and there was Oscar looking down on me with that same old entrancing smile.

Then it came out that the whole affair was a ruse of his to fulfill the conditions of the will.

We were married the same evening, and the next day I claimed and eventually received my fortune. My husband is the same delightful, extravagant, generous, impractical man as of yore. He has never made a dollar, but he saved a fortune, so it doesn't matter. Indeed, I consider his method of fulfilling the conditions of my aunt's will a stroke of genius, for had those interested been able to prove collusion they would have defeated the plan and taken the property.

LENA M. BROOKS.

PERIL IN WATER CRESS.

Parasite Discovered Which Leads to Typhoid, Dropsy and Death.

Physicians familiar with the pollution of the drinking water supplied to Philadelphia were surprised to learn recently that the state board of health has discovered another vehicle by which disease may be introduced into the human system. Water cress, which is sold in great quantities in Philadelphia, has been found to possess a peculiar parasite which attacks the liver and in a few days creates a dropsical condition, which usually ends in the death of the person attacked. The state board is to give the subject especial attention and to adopt stringent regulations, which may go so far as to forbid entirely the sale of the green, says the New York Press.

The cress in which the parasitic life was found had been grown in swampy land, in which the water that fed the slender roots was contaminated. Dr. Lee, secretary of the board, placed himself in communication with the grower and issued a peremptory command that he make no further shipments to Philadelphia.

It is now believed that a large percentage of typhoid fever, which has afflicted Philadelphia for years and attributed to the sewage laden water of the Schuylkill river, has been caused by the contaminated water cress. The dropsy, which comes three or four days after it is eaten, is only one form of disease produced by the mysterious parasite. The doctors now engaged in the investigation are of the opinion that the contaminated cress is responsible for many cases of typhoid as well as for the enlargement of the liver and the consequent development of dropsy.

Water and Weight.

A gallon of distilled water weighs ten pounds, of sea water ten and three-quarter pounds, of Dead Sea water twelve pounds. There are eight and a half pounds of salt in every 100 pounds of Dead Sea water to two and four-fifths pounds in ordinary sea water.

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WAR'S EFFECT ON JAPAN

Count Okuma Says Country Can Fight For Years.

CONDITIONS FAVORABLE.

Financial Anxiety He Says, Is Less, and the War Does Not Effect Commerce—Development of Trade in Far East Japan's Aim.

Ernest W. Clement, the Chicago News correspondent at Tokyo, was favored the other day with a special interview by Count Okuma, former prime minister and minister of finance. The subject discussed was whether Russia could wear out Japan in the present war. The gist of the interview with Count Okuma is as follows:

"It is very important to remember the fact that Japan is not an industrial or manufacturing nation like most of those of Europe and America. It is only just beginning to grow along those lines. It is, in a strict sense, an agricultural country, therefore its capability and power to endure a long war must not be judged in the same way as in the case of England or the United States. Even defeat now would not be so fatal as it might be later when the industries of Japan had developed to a much larger extent. In this respect Russia is much in the same condition, for her manufacturing industries are quite undeveloped.

"When the war began the nation may have had some feelings of fear in standing against one of the strongest powers of the world, but, as the war proceeds, it has become apparent that Japan will be always victorious, and the national amusements and anxiety have become less and less.

"When the war began some industries which were engaged in to meet the internal demand were somewhat checked on account of economical reasons. Manufacturers received some discouragement, but now we need only look around to discover new fields of activity. As there is a large number of employees obtainable and labor is thus cheap, more attention is paid to the manufacture of articles for export. In this most of the enterprises have achieved success. Thus certain industries are arising in place of those which suffer some decline.

"When the economical world began to see the war resulting favorably to Japan it began to feel confident of its power. The excitement aroused at the beginning has entirely subsided and economical conditions are very favorable.

"The general peace of mind of the nation over the effects of the war is another favoring cause. The silk industry this year is very successful. The crops of rice and other grains are larger than for many years. Last year the food supply was insufficient; this year there is more than enough. This good fortune is quieting the minds of those in economical circles and giving great encouragement to the people.

"The war expenses for this year have been calculated at 570,000,000 yen (\$285,000,000). During the seven months since the war began the amount actually spent is about 300,000,000 yen (\$150,000,000), so that possibly there will be a small surplus at the end of the year. It must also be remembered that the expenses at the beginning of the war would naturally be exceptionally large, especially because at that time it was necessary to purchase cruisers, arms and ammunition, steel for battleships and other things in preparation for actual war. Now the preparations for even a long war are pretty nearly completed and the expenses will not be so large as formerly.

"Moreover, as the Russian fleet is practically destroyed, there will be considerable saving in that line. On the other hand, it is necessary to increase the army at the front. It is certain, however, that expenses from now on will not be so large proportionately. Perhaps for next year 400,000,000 yen (\$200,000,000) will be sufficient.

"It is, of course, difficult to prophesy concerning the distant future. There is a certainty that for the coming few years the finances of the country will be able to endure the strain of war. In April the diet voted a budget of war expenses of 570,000,000 yen (\$285,000,000). This has been obtained as follows: A foreign loan of 100,000,000 yen (\$50,000,000), domestic loans of 380,000,000 yen (\$190,000,000) and the remainder by other internal sources. If, as is very likely, the war continues another year and even the same amount is necessary, perhaps 100,000,000 yen (\$50,000,000) or so would be raised abroad, in England or America, and the remainder by internal loans.

"The method of raising a foreign loan is adopted because the gold reserve in the Bank of Japan goes out from time to time and must be restored. But, as stated before, probably the amount needed next year will not be as large as this year, because there is no necessity of buying arms and battleships.

"A great deal of money has been sent to Korea and Manchuria. Thus far the 18,000,000 yen (\$9,000,000) of silver and war notes floating at the front are received with great favor. Russia, too, needs silver. The result is

Handing up Money

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that the price of silver has risen lately. "Now, Japan can endure war for several years, because the annual saving power of the people is about 300,000,000 yen (\$150,000,000), almost enough for a year's war expenses. Moreover, by an appeal to patriotic feeling loans of from 200,000,000 yen (\$100,000,000) to 300,000,000 yen (\$150,000,000) would not be so difficult, especially as under present circumstances the people would be very economical.

"The rate of interest has not changed much since the war began. The deposits in banks and the postoffice have not decreased even since the subscription of the domestic loan. This proves that great resources are still left in the hands of the people. Of course if Russia wishes to continue the war indefinitely perhaps she might wear out Japan in a prolonged contest of endurance of resources, but for a few years Japan can stand the strain with great ease.

"There is another interesting phenomenon that this war has no effect on our commerce. If the export to Korea, Manchuria and America has changed at all, it has been an increase so far this year. On account of good crops there will be no need to import grain next year. Thus the balance of trade becomes favorable.

"At any rate, Japan is determined to go through this war and win at any cost. At the same time the continuance of the war is not desirable. The object of the war is to have peace in the far east, because Korea, Manchuria and China will furnish most excellent markets for the commerce of the world. Unless peace is firmly established no nation can obtain free access to those large markets. Peace and commerce go hand in hand. Japan desires to secure peace at any cost. She feels confident that after peace is firmly established the commercial interests of all powers will be promoted.

"Another object of the war is to convince Russia that free institutions are absolutely necessary in the present condition of the world. In Russia 140,000,000 people are yet practically in absolute slavery. If they were given freedom they would be a much better people and braver soldiers. We wish, not for our own sake only, but also for the sake of the world at large, that full freedom be given to the Russian people, for if that country, the only absolute monarchy remaining in Europe, be governed by free institutions the long continued policy of territorial aggrandizement would be stopped and the warlike policy of Russia would be much modified. This would have a very good effect on the civilization of the world and the cause of humanity. These two objects of this war are striven after by all the Japanese, and unless those ends are secured war will never be discontinued.

"In matters of peace, commerce and freedom Japan always follows the footsteps of the United States and England. Whatever Japan possesses in civilization she owes to these two countries. Her ideal is Anglo-Saxon civilization."

Monument to Cherokees.

Cherokee women have started a movement to raise funds for the purchase of the old Cherokee capital building and grounds at Tahlequah, L. T., to preserve them as a monument to the memory of the brave warriors and able statesmen of the nation, says the Kansas City Star. They will ask the Cherokee council to assist with an appropriation, the council house of the Cherokees is the most historic of any of the Indian nations. On the walls of the council chamber and the chief's office hang portraits of every chief the nation has had since the Cherokees moved to this country. The preservation of the capital buildings and grounds is purely a matter of sentiment, but there are many Cherokees who have left the impress of their work on the United States, and now in the twilight of their nation's existence they believe that a monument to a nation that is passing might well be preserved.

High Speed on Electric Line.

It is expected to reach a speed of 150 miles an hour in the new tests which will be made on the high speed electric line near Berlin, says the New York World. It will be remembered that the last experiments which were made on the specially laid track from Berlin (Marienfeld) to Zossen, resulted in a speed of over 130 miles an hour.

Valtures in Khartum.

In Khartum all valtures are strictly protected by the government, as they are useful in clearing away refuse.

Pagodas of Manchuria.

Of the ancient pagodas of Manchuria those of the first class have seven, nine or thirteen stories, while second-hand ones have from three to five. They are still erected occasionally.

IN HUB MARKETS

Quotations on the Leading Products in Demand.

Boston, Nov. 30.—Butter is rather quiet, with choice fresh made scarce and very firm. Northern creamery, 25¢; western, 24¢; dairy, 21¢; 22¢.

The cheese market is very firm, though prices are not notably higher. Round lots, York state, 11¢; 12¢; Vermont twins, 11¢; 11 3/4¢.

Prices on eggs are on a very high basis; as high, in fact, as the trade will stand. The demand, in consequence, is light, though receipts are small of fresh gathered. Choice nearby, 40¢; 42¢; eastern, 39¢; 40¢; western, 28¢; 30¢.

Beans are easier, with lower prices quoted on all domestic stock. Carload lots, pea, \$1.80; 1.82¢; medium, \$1.90; 1.95¢; yellow eyes, \$2.40; 2.50¢; red kidneys, \$2.40; 2.45¢; California small white, \$2.50; 2.55¢; foreign pea, \$1.85; 1.90¢; foreign—beans—\$1.90; 1.95¢; jobbing prices, 10¢; 15¢ higher.

Local fruit quotations have been fairly busy in the local wholesale market for fruits and vegetables. Prices showed an advancing tendency under the active trade before Thanksgiving and have held up well since then, though business has been in smaller volume.

Receipts of apples have been large, and, although the demand has been chiefly for the fancy table stock, prices are not much changed from a week ago. Cranberries are very plenty and cheap, particularly the common grades; only choice stock brings full quotations. Grapes, oranges and grapefruit have moved well at well sustained prices. Lemons are steady, but quiet. The season for pears is practically over, but a few are still offered. Fruit quotations follow:

Apples—Macintosh reds, \$2.50; 3.50¢; No. 1 Baldwin, \$1.50; 1.75¢; greenings, York state, \$1.25; 1.50¢; fancy Vermont, \$2.25; 2.50¢; northern spies, common, \$1.50; fancy colored, \$2.50; 3.00¢; kings, common, \$1.50; 1.75¢; choice, \$3.00; 3.25¢; shows, common small, \$1.25; 1.50¢; choice large, \$3.00; 3.50¢; Hubbardston, \$1.50; 1.75¢; toman sweets, \$1.75; 2.00¢; pound sweets, \$1.50; 1.75¢; Baldwin and greenings in bulk, open head bbls, 90¢; 1.15¢; common varieties, \$1.25; 1.50¢.

Cranberries—Cape Cod choice early varieties, \$5.00; 5.25¢; choice late varieties, \$5.00; 5.25¢; crates, \$1.45; 1.50¢.

Pears—Native anjous, \$2.50; 3.50¢; bbl; beurre blanc, \$3.50; 4.00¢; seckels, \$3.00; 3.50¢; kelters, \$2.50; 3.00¢; double head bbl.

Grapes—Western New York varieties, open bbls, 70¢; 80¢; western New York concord, 15¢; 20¢; 8-b bbl; California emperors, \$2.40; 3.00¢; a crate; almerias, \$3.50; 4.00¢; a keg.

Onions are firm, as supplies are not large. Cabbages are steady in the face of large offerings. Southern string beans are scarce and hold up well. Turnips have a fair sale at steady prices. Hubbard squashes continue dull and rather low. Potatoes are a few cents higher. Sweet potatoes have ruled firm, owing to limited offerings. Vegetable quotations follow:

Potatoes—Arrostook green mountains, 60¢; 62¢; a bbl; hebrons, 58¢; 60¢; Dakota reds, 58¢; 55¢; sweets, Norfolk, \$2.75; a bbl; Jersey, \$3.25; a bbl; vine-land, \$3.50; a bbl.

Onions—Native, \$1; a bbl; Spanish, \$3.50; a crt; leeks, 40¢; a doz bchs.

Turnips—Yellow, 90¢; a bbl; white, 50¢; 75¢; a bbl; French white, \$1.50; a bag. Spinach, etc.—Spinach, 30¢; a bbl; cabbages, 85¢; a bbl; Savoy cabbages, 75¢; a bbl; red cabbages, 75¢; a box.

Lettuce, etc.—Hothouse lettuce, 75¢; \$1.50; a box of three dozen; chicory, 50¢; a box; mint, 50¢; a dozen bchs; water-cress, 50¢; a dozen bchs; parsley, 50¢; a bu.

Miscellaneous—Beets, 50¢; 60¢; a bu; carrots, 50¢; a bu; parsnips, 75¢; 85¢; a bu; cucumbers, \$1.75; 8.50¢; a box; egg plants, \$2; a dozen; marrow squash, 75¢; a bbl; turban squash, \$1.50; a ton; celery, 65¢; 90¢; a dozen bchs; Pascal, \$1.25; 1.50; dozen bchs; Boston market celery, \$1.25; 1.75; a box; cauliflower, \$2; a box of 8 to 10 heads; pumpkins, 50¢; a box; brussels sprouts, 10¢; 12¢; a quart; oxheart plants, 75¢; a dozen; artichokes, \$1.50; a box; okra, \$2.50; a crate.

Pork provisions are steady at the revised prices. Short cut and heavy backs, \$16.75; long cuts, \$18; medium, \$16; lean ends, \$18.75; 19.75¢; bean pork, \$13.25; 13.75¢; fresh ribs, 9¢; 9 3/4¢; fresh shoulders, 8 5/8¢; smoked shoulders, 8 3/4¢; corned shoulders, 5¢; hams, 10 1/4¢; 10 1/2¢; skinned hams, 10 3/4¢; 11 1/4¢; boiled hams, 10 1/4¢; 10 3/4¢.

Fresh beef has been quiet, with prices steady on the best cattle and easy on light stock. Choice heavy cattle, 80¢; 85¢; light, 5¢; 7¢; heavy hinds, 11¢; 12¢; light, 9¢; 10¢; heavy fores, 5¢; 7¢; light, 4¢; 5¢.

There is an easy market for lambs, with a quiet holiday trade; veals are firm. Western fall lambs, 70¢; 75¢; spring lambs, 80¢; yearlings, 60¢; 70¢; muttons, 60¢; 65¢; veals, 60¢; 70¢.

The Thanksgiving poultry trade has been very peculiar, to say the least. On Tuesday prices on turkeys were

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND.

A WOMAN'S REMEDY FOR WOMAN'S ILLS.

very high, with a short supply. Very heavy receipts on Wednesday morning broke the market, and, although the arrivals were taken care of, prices ruled low Wednesday afternoon and since that time. Cost both at wholesale and retail is now down to normal. The wholesale quotations are: Western turkeys, 17¢; 18¢; northern, nominal; northern chickens, large, 18¢; medium, 14¢; 15¢; western chickens, large, 14¢; 15¢; medium, 12¢; 13¢; northern fowl, 15¢; western, 13¢; 14¢; geese, 14¢; 15¢; ducks, 15¢; 16¢.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

The Record of Executions in Vermont Does Not Prevent Murder.

W. W. Banister of Brantford has the following communication in the Evening Argus:

Please allow me to reply to Rev. J. Hall Long in regard to capital punishment.

Does capital punishment prevent murder? If so, it would have stopped murders long ago. Our record is a long one for a state the size of Vermont.

Following is a list of executions in our little state:

Cyrus B. Dean at Burlington, November 23, 1808.

Samuel E. Godfrey, at Woodstock, February 13, 1818.

Luther Virginia (colored), at St. Albans, May 23, 1820.

Archibald Bates, at Bennington, February 2, 1839.

This was the last public execution held in Vermont, 15,000 people being present at this time to see a human being hung. A woman and two children were killed by a horse running away, so four lives were hurled into eternity.

At the next session of the legislature this law was repealed and the executions have since been private.

Two aged men, Sandy Kavanough and William Barnes, one 73 years old, and the other 62, were hung at Windsor, January 29, 1864.

The next, John Ward, of Williston, March 20, 1868, at the age of 72 years.

On June 25, 1869, Hiram Miller was hung at Windsor. He was a man much respected and undoubtedly was innocent.

Henry Welcome, a boy only 17 years old, of Hinesburg, January 20, 1871.

March 14, 1879, Henry Graveling, of Weatherfield.

John P. Phair, April 10, 1879, believed by many to be innocent.

Asa S. Magoun of Barre, November 28, 1879, making three in that year.

Edward Tatro, of Highgate, April 2, 1880.

Edwin C. Haden of Derby Line, killed his wife while intoxicated and was hung February 23, 1881.

Royal S. Carr of Worcester, killed an Indian, and was executed April 29, 1881.

Lucy E. Meeker, the only woman executed in Vermont, March 30, 1883.

Sylvester Bell of Fairfax, January 1, 1893, this being the last one in the state.

Six murderers have had their sentences commuted: Horace R. Plumley, William C. Buzzell, Mrs. Isabel Marsh, Charles Dorrsett, Frank Shaw, Almon Meeker, Frederick Eastwood. One, Edson Fuller, of Readsboro, hung himself while under sentence of death, in his cell.

I think the present legislature of Vermont had better abolish capital punishment before the unfortunate Mrs. Rogers of Bennington is added to the awful list of those who have perished in the Vermont slaughter house.

I have seen and conversed with her several times while she has been at Windsor. She has been more sinned against than sinning.

President McKinley did not want his assassin executed, as he said after the fatal shot had been fired, "Don't hurt him."

Now, all good men do not believe in capital punishment. The voices of the martyred Lincoln and Garfield cry out from the silent chambers of the dead against capital punishment.

Now, as we live up to the golden precepts of our Saviour to do unto others as we would be done by, there will not be one murder to where there are ten now.

You lovers of truth, liberty, justice and Christianity, let us all pray for the dawning of that eventful day when the awful shadow of the blood-stained scaffold shall forever cease to darken our glorious land.

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